

25, WILTON PLACE.  
S.W.

May 7/77

My dear Gray

784 Guss.

Your enclosed plant is evidently  
a *Lachnostoma* and (as far as I can  
tell without having seen the type) is  
the *Chthamalia nummularia* Desv.

As to what *Spren's de VBO* is  
we have unfortunately no record  
It no longer stands amongst uncertain  
*Convolvulaceae* and I do not recollect  
it - If we had a tracing of it we  
might find it out

Observe the aculeus has no mem-  
brane on the outer tips the angles of the  
stigma project between them and the  
pollen masses are turned inward (a little  
downward) which are the characteristics  
of *Gonolobos* and the corona is attached  
not to the gynostegium then to the corolla  
which puts it into *Lachnostoma*.

Yours truly George Nuthall

P.S. does not come out till June!

synopsis of species in the wide sense of  
the term - of their respective ranges in  
Europe - the forms they assume in  
the different parts of the region of  
the areas in which they multiply and  
vary and combine with others and of  
those in which they remain waste  
in late and comparatively rare - a  
general comparison of the different  
partial floras - the Western - the  
Mediterranean - the south-eastern -  
the alpine etc, and many other particularly  
for more important in instructing us in  
the natural history of vegetable life  
than the minute description of hairs and  
veins of the forms of leaves etc to  
which some local botanists now give  
so much value and which induce others  
to look down upon systematics with  
utmost contempt.

In extra-European floras there is  
as still much to be done of true scientific  
value. The Indian flora is the best

25, WILTON PLACE.  
S.W.

London  
Nov 19 / 77

My dear Gray

I ought to have written to  
you immediately on Hooker's return  
to acknowledge the receipt of the  
£ 8.3.6 which he duly remitted to  
me from you - but I have been so  
completely absorbed in the Flora  
Australensis now coming to a close  
that I have written no letters for  
some time. This work has been the  
labour of the last fifteen years and  
times I have felt that at my age  
the chance were that I should leave  
it unfinished - and now that the greater

part of the seventh and last volume is  
printed off I feel quite nervous about  
getting it finished. I have still only a  
few of the genera of ferns to go through  
and on them I am very much affected  
by Daker. - With the volume well  
ready to be out by Christmas.

Hooker returned much benefitted  
by his trip and he speaks much of  
the very great advantage he derives  
from your unwearied exertions  
in facilitating his seeing everything  
that could be useful and agreeable  
to him - I was very glad to hear  
that Mr Gray bore so well the  
fatigues of the expedition showing that  
he must be still in the enjoyment  
of that vigorous body and mind

which she so richly deserves and well  
well good use of - It is also very  
gratifying to learn that you are really  
advancing in the great work of the  
completion of which is so much wanted  
the Flora of North America.

The Community of Botanists has  
had envelopes within the last  
twelvemonth and in systematic Botany  
there are very few rising to replace  
them and yet notwithstanding the  
disparour thrown upon that branch  
of the science there is still much to  
be done. We want much a really  
comprehensive Flora of Europe - not  
a detailed description of minutiae  
distinguishing 300 species of *Plumbago*  
or 100 of *Isab. vera* but a general

fairly progressing. The tropical African  
flora has some chance of being complete  
before the first volume has become quite  
obsolete through the large additions almost  
daily made to the materials available.  
The Cape flora is however at a complete  
stand still. For the North American flora  
we rely upon you. The West Indian wants  
rewriting on a more comprehensive plan  
than Grisebachi. The Central American is  
being prepared for Mr. Salvin's work but  
I do not as yet understand in what shape  
it will appear. The magnificent Brazilian  
flora is too cumbersome and too unequal  
in its parts to be really <sup>of</sup> useful to the  
general botanist as would be a  
small synopsis by one or few authors.  
Our much lamented friend Weddell's  
Chloris Andinea remains unperfected  
and we want much a general flora  
of Pacific South America. The

French talk of a series of *Flora Coloniarum*  
<sup>or of the countries they have, especially of those</sup>  
Floras - Lagune, New Caledonia  
Madagascar etc in imitation of the  
Colonial Floras planned by Dr William  
Hooker - but they talk about and  
begin a great deal and finish but little.

The printing of the first volume  
of De Candolle's Monographs is I  
understand far advanced containing,  
amongst others, De Candolle's *Smilacinae*,  
Carminis De Candolle's *Helianthem* *Mortieria*  
*Distachium* etc. Munro is steadily at  
work at Gramineae for the same  
publication but will have nothing  
ready for the first volume. Several  
other monographs are in hand I hear  
for subsequent volumes. I wish some  
botanist with a clear methodical mind  
would undertake the *Lepidaceae*. Boeckler,  
is I believe to be depended upon for

accuracy but his long descriptions are  
uncontrasted and limited to species in  
the Berlin herbarium and therefore of  
little use to the general botanist

Are there any hopes of your coming  
over on a visit here with Mr Gray  
I am getting very old and it would be  
great comfort to me to shake hands again  
with you both before I die

Yours ever sincerely  
George Dontham